

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Behavioral Health	(2) MEETING DATE 6/21/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Amy Olson, ASO II, 781-4729	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a FY 2016-17 contract, with the option to renew for two additional years, with Eugene Kercher, MD for an hourly rate of \$120 to provide medical and psychiatric services for County Mental Health clients. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2016-17 contract, with the option to renew for two additional years, with Eugene Kercher, MD for an hourly rate of \$120 to provide medical and psychiatric services for County Mental Health clients.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Medi-Cal and Realignment	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$83,950.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$83,920.00	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent    { } Presentation                      { } Hearing (Time Est. ____ )    { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions    { X } Contracts    { } Ordinances    { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001665		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required            { X } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { X } N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Morgan Torell			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director  
Anne Robin, Behavioral Health Administrator

DATE: 6/21/2016

SUBJECT: Request to approve a FY 2016-17 contract, with the option to renew for two additional years, with Eugene Kercher, MD for an hourly rate of \$120 to provide medical and psychiatric services for County Mental Health clients. All Districts.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve a FY 2016-17 contract, with the option to renew for two additional years, with Eugene Kercher, MD for an hourly rate of \$120 to provide medical and psychiatric services for County Mental Health clients.

## **DISCUSSION**

Behavioral Health Services has a need for both a medical doctor and a psychiatrist on a part-time contract basis to provide limited medical duties and psychiatric services at the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF). Dr. Kercher is both a medical doctor and a psychiatrist. Medical duties, as provided for in the California Code of Regulations Title 9, Division 1, §785.11, would include taking a medical history and physical (H&P), providing sick calls to clients, and providing medical supervision of the nurse practitioners at the PHF. Psychiatric duties include diagnosing client mental health conditions, issuing and renewing prescriptions, monitoring medication effectiveness, and evaluating client progress. Psychiatrists are the only staff authorized to perform psychiatric medication services. Medical and psychiatric services are necessary to ensure mandated coverage at the County's PHF. Coverage is only required on a part-time basis, which makes the use of contract medical doctor and psychiatrist the most effective method of providing these services.

The availability of a contract medical doctor and psychiatrist to perform necessary medical and psychiatric duties allows for the flexibility to provide mandated services but puts the county under no obligation to utilize these services except as mandated. These contracted services have proven to be an essential component in the Department's staffing plan for many years. Contract psychiatrists are utilized as long-term options to fill in for part-time assignments which are not covered by full time employees and cannot be covered by locum tenens.

As per contract Exhibit C.4., Option to Renew, this contract may be extended for two one-year periods upon Health Agency Director approval to exercise said option to renew for each one-year period. The Health Agency Director may also approve any changes pertaining to service(s), service level changes or rate changes as per contract Exhibit D.30, Delegation of Authority.

## **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contracts as to form and legal effect.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The rate of pay for Dr. Kercher is \$120.00 per hour. The FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget for Behavioral Health includes \$60,246 for medical services in the PHF and \$23,704 for psychiatric services provided at the PHF. The recommended contract includes no cap on the services the contractor is able to provide. It is expected that, for FY 2016-17, the projected cost of these services will not exceed the budgets mentioned above.

## **RESULTS**

Both medical and psychiatric services are an integral part of Behavioral Health Services, and a critical component to the overall effort to provide quality client care. A medical doctor is licensed and trained to provide examinations and prescribe the medications needed by mental health clients to help control medical symptoms and ailments while psychiatrists are licensed and trained to prescribe the medications needed by mental health clients to help control mental health symptoms.

Clients in the PHF are seen by a medical doctor and a psychiatrist within 24 hours of admission. During FY 2014-15, the contract employee psychiatrists covering the outpatient clinic on-call shifts and PHF spent 825 hours and 80 on-call shifts of time providing services such as assessments and medication support to 972 unique clients (approximately 81 per month), with the majority of the services being related to medication support. The psychiatrist may also specialize in conservatorship assessments and hearings. As of mid-May, 2016, the PHF has admitted 1,014 clients in the FY, with 733 of those being unique clients. An average of 107 clients are being seen and treated each month by a psychiatrist and/or medical professional.

Without these services, Behavioral Health could neither meet State mandates for medical medication support services nor properly prescribe and monitor medications. Contracting with an independent medical doctor/psychiatrist contributes to the County meeting legal staffing requirements 100% of the time. Providing medical doctor and psychiatrist coverage at the PHF contributes to proper medical and psychiatric medication management and oversight of client treatment. Providing the most appropriate services to the clients increases the probability of positive treatment outcomes. Furthermore, positive treatment outcomes contribute to the wider County vision of a healthy and safe community.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Dr. Kercher contract FY 2016-17